Saluda County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
   - Sense of pride
   - Meets needs of various population
   - Survival
   - Quality of life
   - Attract industry – jobs – retain
   - For students to improve test scores

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed?**
   (Strengths & Challenges)
   - Show the correlation of need for higher knowledge for jobs of today (example, farming is now high tech agriculture)
   - To see improvement in basic skills

   Strengths:
   - Partnership with DHEC and Health Occupations
   - Balanced literacy K-8 (Reading Recovery)
   - 3-8 Math Assessment grouped according to performance provided instruction
   - Math Academy
   - Professional Development aligned with standards
   - Teacher common Planning Period by grade level
   - Guidance exposure to students- Careers/ Goals
   - Requiring parents to attend 4 year old program before child is admitted
   - Provide parents with resources
   - Parent-community people volunteer in schools – read with children, one on one help with schoolwork, supply/ book clerk
   - Good teachers and administrators
   - Facilities
   - Supportive board and businesses

   Challenges:
   - No opportunities for successful students in the community (role models, business opportunities)
   - Support and teach higher performance and students without language and w/out parental support
   - Communication gap between school and community, teachers and students, parents and school
   - Concern for effectiveness of Teacher Specialists
   - Saluda Primary 20% Hispanic Student Population – total enrolled: 400
   - One on one relationship with teacher and student based on ability
   - Parents without knowledge to help child with schoolwork – reaching to parents and language barrier
   - Class size reduction in early grades is being threatened
   - Opportunities
   - Facilities
   - Equal funding, state and local
   - Industry
   - Networking throughout county and agencies

- On-going diversity training
- Diverse teaching training
- Parent support
- Educational level of parents
- Economic factors
- Growing Hispanic population

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
   - Sports
   - Arts
   - Volunteers
   - Mentors
   - Community-in-school Program
   - Tutoring program
   - Career Day
   - School-to-work
   - Public Library
   - Churches
   - Flower and Garden
   - Support Agencies

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
   - Monitor and limit television
   - Volunteer
   - Mentors
   - Organize after school programs and recreation
   - Caring and supportive
   - Stop being judgmental
   - Have high expectations
   - Teach discipline and respect for others at home